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PRESS REPORTS ABOUT THE LUFTWAFFE AND USE OF GAS IN FRANCE (1940)

From: LONDON

To: MOSCOW

No: 887

15th Aug. 40

To JOHN [DZHON][i].

The press reports the following [i group unidentified] Germans.

1. Before the main air-raid small groups of aircraft travelling ahead lay a screen of white smoke. Large groups bomb a few minutes later under cover of the smoke.
2. Single aircraft and small groups have the job of shooting up barrage balloons.
3. Ju-88's are equipped with an instrument for bringing the aircraft out of a dive and releasing bombs at the same time. The instrument operates on the aneroid principle.
4. After the German airmen from shot-down aircraft get down on the water they release a green smoke cloud which can be seen by an aircraft at a distance of about five miles.
5. The daytime raids by the dive-bombers are allegedly mounted in most cases at a height of 2,500-3,000 metres. They peel off from this height down to 1,500 metres and go into a dive.
6. The German Commandatures used small amounts of colourless and odourless gas on the MAGINOT LINE and at LIEGE. A medical man who has been treating soldiers suggests that this gas was of the arsenic type [MITSYAKOV-VUDOROZHENNOGO SOSTAVA].

No. 226

DICK [DHK][ii]

Comments: [i] JOHN: Unidentified MOSCOW addressee 6th July 1940 - 16th September 1940.

[ii] DICK: Covername of unidentified LONDON signatory and addressee between 6th July 1940 and 11th October 1940.